

Message Text

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SUBJ: DSP MISSION TO US RETURNS

REF: TOKYO 12354

SUMMARY. DSP MISSION TO THE US RETURNED SEPTEMBER 10 IMPRESSED WITH UNANIMITY OF US OPINION ON KOREAN SITUATION AND IMPORTANCE AMERICANS ATTACH TO US-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP. MISSION MEMBERS APPEARED BOTH SATISFIED AND REASSURED BY THEIR WASHINGTON BRIEFINGS. END SUMMARY.

1. DSP SEC-GEN TSUKAMOTO SEPTEMBER 10 GAVE AN AIRPORT NEWS CONFERENCE ON RETURN OF DSP MISSION TO JAPAN. HE STRESSED HIS IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS NO SPLIT BETWEEN US ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS ON NEED TO RETAIN US FORCES IN SOUTH KOREA, ADDING THAT US WILL MAINTAIN ITS ITS FORCES THERE EVEN AFTER ROK FORCES ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY. SENATOR MANSFIELD, FOR EXAMPLE, REPORTEDLY TOLD GROUP THAT WITHDRAWAL FROM ROK AT PRESENT STATE IS INCONCEIVABLE. MANSFIELD SAID WITHDRAWAL MIGHT BECOME POSSIBLE IN FUTURE, IF STABILITY WERE ASSURED, BUT STRESSED NEED
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TO SPREAD WITHDRAWAL OVER FIVE TO TEN YEAR PERIOD. (BUT, IF

SITUATION IN KOREA IS STABILIZED, MANSFIELD REPORTEDLY SAID US FORCES COULD BE WITHDRAWN NOT ONLY FROM KOREA BUT FROM JAPAN AS WELL.

)

IN SUM, TSUKAMOTO SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY UNANIMITY OF AMERICAN OPINION THAT US SHOULD CONTINUE POLICY OF "SEEKING STABILITY ON KOREAN

PENINSULA." HE ADDED THAT US ADMINISTRATION, CONGRESS AND SCHOLARS ALL BELIEVE POSSIBILITY OF NORTH KOREAN ADVANCE SOUTHWARD SLIGHT BECAUSE NEITHER PEKING NOR MOSCOW WANT ARMED CLASH ON KOREAN PENINSULA.

2. TSUKAMOTO SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY IMPORTANCE WASHINGTON OFFICIALS AND CONGRESS ATTACH TO US-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP. ON OTHER THEMES, TSUKAMOTO SAID GROUP WAS TOLD THAT PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER MIKI DID NOT DISCUSS CONCEPT OF DEFENSE BURDEN-SHARING IN CONCRETE TERMS, THAT US WOULD NOT BE CONCERNED OVER INCLUSION OF ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE IN JO-J-PRC FRIENDSHIP TREATY, AND THAT ROLE OF JSDF IS FOR JAPAN TO DECIDE. ON LAST POINT, HOWEVER, HE NOTED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ZURHELLEN'S REPORTED ASSURANCE THAT US DOES NOT EXPECT DISPATCH OF JSDF ABROAD.

3. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH WE WILL NOT BE SPEAKING WITH DSP MISSION MEMBERS DIRECTLY FOR A FEW MORE DAYS, IT APPEARS THEY CAME AWAY SATISFIED AND REASSURED FROM THEIR WASHINGTON BRIEFINGS. PRESS REPORTAGE COVERED FULLY POINTS WE HOPED TO GET ACROSS. ONLY POSSIBLE EXCEPTION TO THIS WAS REFERENCE TO OUR "SEEKING STABILITY ON KOREAN PENINSULA." WHILE CERTAINLY WE DO, PHRASING SMACKED MORE OF TOKYO THAN WASHINGTON. HODGSON

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